

**ONLY ONE MORE SUNDAY TO DONATE FOR STREET HELP** *On the entry table,* please find out how we can add Street Help to our List for Christmas Gifts. **Financial donations** to Street Help enable them to buy needed food and cooking supplies. Please forward financial donations as in the past: ***cash donations should be made out to Tecumseh United Church, if paying by cheque write “Street Help” on the memo line of the cheque. Or e-transfer your donation to donations@tecumsehunited.com and state “Street Help” in the comment section. Thank you.***

**Join us at 6:30pm** before the worship service at 7pm on **Christmas Eve** for a ***Special Musical Presentation*** featuring flute, organ, piano, soloists and full choir, under the direction of Henry Boon.

Rev. Robin Sherman (519) 983-0528 robin@tecumsehunited.com  
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*Office Hours~ Wednesdays & Thursdays 10am-2pm*  
Donations can be made by simple e-transfer to  
donations@tecumsehunited.com

#### Fourth Advent

Just a few days before Christmas, as we light the fourth candle, what could be more appropriate than to turn our thoughts to the sentiment of love? Christmas parties, gatherings of friends or colleagues, the exchange of cards, letters and Zoom calls, all contribute to those “warm and fuzzy” feelings that we have grown to expect to be an integral part of the season. But what about “the others”? What about the idiot that cut us off in traffic the other day; the dodderly old fool who took forever in the grocery line; the mother with the squalling brat in the Dollarama store? And let’s not even mention the foreigner who can’t even understand plain English, or the immigrant who follows some strange religious ceremonies that we can’t comprehend? What about them? Surely, we’re not expected to love *them*, are we? Well yes! In fact, I’d like to suggest that those folks I’ve mentioned are the very ones who need our love the most. They are the ones who desperately require confirmation that they are loved unconditionally, not only by God, but by the people who surround them. That they too are family, and while, just like in any family, we may well have differences of opinion, that does not mean that we do not care for them and acknowledge them as children of God.



Tecumseh United Church  
~ An Affirming Congregation ~  
Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.  
Advent Four

*We are a fragrance-free environment.  
We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional  
territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples.*

### *We Gather in God's Love*

Welcome and Announcements  
Land Acknowledgement  
Fourth Sunday of Advent - see *back of bulletin*

### Advent Four

(Sung to the tune of the chorus of MV 79 "Spirit, Open My Heart")

Will you come, gather in?

There is love all around us.

For the proud have been scattered  
and the mystery has found us.

Will you come, gather in?

### Call to Worship:

Love, in the midst of apathy-  
hate is not the opposite of love, apathy is.

**When apathy sets in, love is a choice. Love is a verb.**

**Love is less what we feel and more what we do.**

An act of love. A labour of love.

**We come choosing love when apathy is easier,  
choosing love when it means it may come with pain.**

Let us pray for Emmanuel, for love that resists apathy,  
for wisdom to choose the way of love  
even when it is woven together with pain and sorrow.

**\*Hymn # 38 "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

### Opening Prayer

**Merciful God, we have gathered in hope, sought peace,  
and laughed with joy, and now we come both to give and to  
receive the great love that you have for us.  
Be with us and in our witness this week and every week.**

**Help us to bring your love to the world, especially into the  
broken and forgotten places and to people who so need  
your love. It is for this that you came to Bethlehem and for  
this that you continue to come again this year.  
Amen.**

**\*Hymn # 73 "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"**

Faith Friends Time / Lord's Prayer

**Hymn MV # 104 "Know That God Is Good"**

### *We Listen to God's Word*

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-45

**\*Hymn MV # 134 "There Was a Child in Galilee"** (*Dreaming Mary*)

Meditation

### *We Respond to God's Word*

**Choir Anthem**

The Offering

**Offertory Hymn # 542 "We Give You But Your Own"**

Prayers of the People / Prayer Book is read

### *We Go to Love and Serve God*

**\*Hymn # 74 "What Child Is This"**

**\*Commissioning**

(Sung to the tune of the chorus of MV 79 "Spirit, Open My Heart")

May you go now in love.

You are held in God's keeping.

In your hearts be deep knowing.

In your womb be a leaping.

May you go now in love.

Benediction

*\*Music & Lyrics used under CCLI License # 11323634*

**Thanks** to Ian Phillips for writing the Advent messages each week,  
to Ron Brown for reading and to Anne Auger and Janet Peck  
for hosting Coffee Hour this morning.

**Happy Anniversary** this week to Mark & Anne Auger  
and Karen & Harry Devries